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A Guide to Heaven
FROM THE
WORD:
OR,
GOOD COUNSEL
How to close savingly with
CHRIST.

WITH

Some short, but serious Questions to ask our hearts every Morning and Evening, whether we walk closely with Him.

And especially, Rules for the strict and due observation of the Lords Day.

Joh. 5. 39.
Search the Scriptures.

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at the Gun in Ivy lane, 1664.





To the
R E A D E R.

Courteous Reader,

HAd the Author of
these Rules and
Enquiries intended them
for the Press, thou mightest
have found them set
off with greater advantage
to please a curious
Pallat; but being drawn

A 2 out

To the Reader.

out only for a plain people, they come close to the Conscience, in a familiar vulgar stile. Read them with care and consideration, and you will find every line almost heart-searching. Keep this Book alway at your Bed-head, and let not a day pass over your head, without taking it into your hand, and pondering the things in your heart. The first Rules are of singular
use

To the Reader.

use to bring you unto
Christ : The Questions
to keep you close in your
walk with him every day :
And the last Rules are to
help you especially on Gods
Day. Never more need of
Counsel about our souls :
The Lord help us to im-
prove all to Gods glory ,
and our own good and
comfort.

Farewel.

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A





A Guide to Heaven
FROM THE
W O R D:

O R,
Good Counsel how to close
saviingly with Christ, &c.

*Twelve Rules to prepare you
for closing with Christ.*

1. **W** O R K your hearts
into a thorow
and unfeigned belief of the

A 4 Ar-

2 *Directions to prepare.*

Articles of your Faith: Believe certainly and firmly, without the least doubt, that there is a great and glorious God, that Jesus Christ is his only Son, and the alone Saviour: That the Bible is the true Word of God: That undoubtedly there is such a place as Heaven and Hell, *Heb.* 11. 6.

2. Really believe, that you carry within your breasts, precious and immortal souls; which must be adjudged by this God to one of those two places, there to be for ever and ever,

you for Christ. 3

ver, *Mat. 16. 26, &c.*

3. Assure your selves.
that the last Sentence will
be past according to your
well or ill behaving your
selves in this life. Every
man shall be rewarded ac-
cording to his works, *2 Cor.*
5. 10. Isa. 3. 10, 11. Eccles.
8. 11, 12, 13.

4. Account upon it,
that it's very difficult to
come to that Heaven, and
that the way to destruction
is broad and easie. Re-
member still, you have de-
ceitful hearts within you, a
wicked Devil nigh you, and
snares and hinderances a-

A 5 bout

4 *Directions to prepare*

bout and before you, *Mat.*
7.13, 14. Luke 13.24.

Say, my time is short my
work is great, and my
strength is small.

5. Certainly believe it,
that Heaven is so glorious,
that it's worth all your care
and pains, be it never so
much: and that Hell is so
dreadful, that you may rea-
sonably fly from it with all
diligence, earnestness and
speed; that it's better you
never had been born, if
you should die in your sins,
and perish everlastingly:
what a direful screech will
your soul give, if it goes
out.

you for Christ. 5

Mat. out of your body into un-
quenchable burnings? *Heb.*

my 11. 14, 16, 26. 1 *Pet.* 1. 4.

my 2 *Cor.* 4. 17, 18. 2 *Cor.* 5. 11.

6. Reckon, that all the
it, troubles of this world, can't
us, make a man going to that
re Heaven in ways of Righte-
so ousness, miserable and
so wretched: How sweet will
a- it be to pass, though out of
all a poor tottering Cottage,
d into a glorious Palace?
u Out of a Sea of troubles and
if dangers, into an Haven of
s, Peace, Rest, and Plenty?
: Nor can all the Riches,
l Honours, and Pleasures
s here, make a man going to
t that

6 *Directions to prepare*

that Hell, happy : What a terrible Hell will Hell be to great ones , that have spent all their days in pleasure ! It's much to change a Palace for the dark silent Grave ; Jewels and Deckings, for worms and rottenness. But what is it to have sweet singings turned into bitter howlings? Deckt and glittering rooms , pleasant walks, rich attire, delicious fare into dark Dungeons, unquenchable lakes of fire and brimstone ? *Mal.* 3. 15. to 18. *Luke* 12. 16. to 21.

7. Seriously think, I may yet

yet get to this Heaven, and avoid the fearful plagues and terrours of Hell. If I shall come to glory, what a God shall I enjoy for ever and ever? into what blessed arms and bosome shall I cast my soul? and if I should go to Hell at last, can I bear up under the weight of Gods vengeance? Well, yet there is hope; Gods heart, the door of Grace, and the Gate of Heaven, yet stand open. How would the damned in Hell give thousands of worlds (if they had them) for my *may be*! Heaven,
Grace,

Directions to prepare 8

Grace, and Christ are offered, and dare I refuse all? Can I venture the loss of soul and body for ever and ever? *Heb. 10. 30, 31.*

8. If I miss of glory, 'twill be mine own fault, my damnation will lie at my own door: God can clear himself of my blood; his proffers of grace are free and frequent, earnest and real; and shall I murder mine own soul? *Ezek. 18. 32. Job. 5. 40.* It may be written over my Grave, *Here is one that destroyed himself, that would go to Hell thorow mercies, judgments.*

you for Christ.

9

ments and warnings.

9. Debate the case with your soul solemnly, What is there in sin, that I so much dote on? What are my greatest designs and projects in the World? Can I dig the pearl of happiness out of this dunghil World? Can I get the Houses, Lands, Honours, Friends that I aim at? and if I should, what are they? Certainly conclude, the greatest wisdom is to be wise to salvation, and my best work is to work it out with fear and trembling, lest I lose it, *Prov. 3. 13, 14. &c.*

10. Then

10 *Directions to prepare*

10. Then search and try your hearts, whether you are in the Faith, and your hearts sound in Gods Statutes. Ask seriously, Have I the love that is sincere, the Faith that is sound, soul-saving, and sin-killing, and life-reforming? Am I sure my face and heart are really set *Sion-ward*, and *Heaven-ward*? 2 Cor. 13. 5.

To this end Query :

1. *Did I ever see sin odious, black and hellish? Defiling and damning? Have I seen it in the glass of the Law, bloody and killing? but in Christs blood, exceed-*

you for Christ.

11

exceeding, and above measure sinful? Rom. 7. 13.

2. Do I see in Jesus Christ a beauty and excellency, a fulness and all-sufficiency? Is he the chiefest of ten thousands, altogether lovely in mine eye? Can I say, Oh! thousand of gold (if I had it) for an interest in Christs blood, that cleansing, healing; peace-speaking blood! None but Christ. All is but dung, that I may win him, Phil. 3. 7, 8.

11. Take it for granted, that there is no name under heaven, whereby you can be saved, but Jesus Christs.

All

12 *Directions to prepare*

All grace and mercy for this life, and that to come, must come to you thorow the channel of Christs blood, *Acts* 16.30,31. *Acts* 4.10,11.12. Say, By sin I have shut Heaven gate, and hardned Gods heart against me: I have laid my self open to all the wrath of God, all the curses in n the Bible, and all the torments of Hell: and if I could bring all the cries of my self, and all my friends, the strength of the Angels, the riches of all the world, it would be as nothing to make up this woful breach: Christ alone can do it.

12. Be-

12. Believe it, that Christ came to seek and to save such as we that were lost. That he is not only able, but willing and ready to give forth his rich grace. What made him leave his Fathers bosome, put off the Majestick Robes of his glory, but love to poor souls? What made him drink the dreadful cup of his Fathers wrath, make such loud calls, such rich proffers; wait, and send; be rejected, and wait; cry earnestly, and wait long, but love to sinners? *Joh. 6.35, 37.* 'Twas love to souls made

made him give up his body to be broken, that precious box of oyntment, which fills both heaven and earth with its sweet savour, and pleasant perfumes.

Having throughly weigh-
ed and believed these fore-
going propositions: then
come to Christ these 13
ways.

Directions how to close savingly with Christ.

1. **C**OME to Christ, a poor, lost, and undone wretch, hopeles and helpless; as to an onely able, and merciful Saviour. Cry out, as one sinking under the Waves and boisterous tempests of sin, *Master save, or else I perish.* If thou wilt, thou canst, *Heb. 7.25.* Say with *Thomas, My Lord, and my God, my Christ, and my Saviour;* put the hand of thy Faith into Christs pierced and bleed-

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16 *Directions how to*

bleeding sides, *Joh. 20. 27,*
28. Say as they, *Joh. 6. 38.*
Whither should I go, but
unto such a Saviour! thou
hast eternal life. Thou
canst help me out of the
deep and miery ditch of my
sins, and over the fiery and
fearful gulph of Gods
wrath, and canst bring me
into the blessed presence,
yea, into the gracious arms,
bosome, and embraces of
the God of glory. I stretch
out the weak arms of my
Faith to thee, O stretch out
the strong arm of thy power
and mercy, and come and
save me!

2 Come

2. Come as an humble, broken, and relenting sinner, to an offended Majesty. Come trembling, with tears in your eyes, and deep sorrow in your heart. Come as one vile in the sight of God, your self, men, and Angels. As the poor Publican, not worthy to look up to heaven, smite on thy wicked heart. As the Centurion, say, *I am not worthy thou shouldest come under the roof of my heart.* As the Prodigal, *I have sinned against Heaven, and am not worthy to be an hired servant.* Yet there is
mer-

18 *Directions how to.*

mercy enough in my Fathers heart and thy merits, *Isa. 61.1.* I have let flie many poysonous bullets, and bitter arrows of sin against thee ; I have by sin, fetcht (as it were) blood from thy precious heart afresh, though it ran so freely and abundantly for my sake ; but now a sight of thy pierced side breaks my heart with sobs and sighs. My sins are now as so many pricks in my side, thorns at my heart, and ropes about my neck.

3. Come as a filthy polluted, loathsome creature,
to

to a cleansing Fountain of Grace. *Lazarus* in all his sores, or *Job* on the dunghil with his scabs and botches, were not so filthy and abominable in the eye of man, as I am through the running sores and plagues of my heart and life, in the sight of an holy and pure God. I am more vile then the Toad, then the stinking carrion in the ditch. How doth this filth stream through every duty and mercy? I drop the filthiness of sin, wherever I go. Oh wash, cleanse and purifie in thy blood, *Iob* 15.

B

16,

16, 42. Unclean, unclean !
Thy body was broken to let
out thy blood for my sake ,
and shall not my heart be
broken to let out the filth
and gore of my sin ?

4. Come as a bond-slave,
drudge, and vassal, to Christ
as to a Redeemer. Com-
plain of the Devils cruel
usage, and Sins tyrannizing.
Say, Lord, thou hast paid
a price sufficient. Thou
hast redeemed me by thy
precious blood, that is more
worth then ten thousand
worlds. Knock off these
iron fetters, rescue me out
of this hellish Dungeon of
sin,

fin. I have now no command of my head or heart, of my tongue or passions. How do lusts domineere !
Luke 4. 18. Heb. 2. 14, 15. Rom. 12, 13, 14. Here I lie staked down to the earth by a carnal heart.

5. Come as a sin-sick-soul to Christ, as to the only able Physitian. As sick persons, crying out of an aking head, or griping bowels. So complain, Oh the plague of an hard heart ! The galls and gripes of a wounded conscience ! the wounds and stabs I have given my soul by sin ! Here I am sick

22 *Directions how to*

to the very heart , fainting
and perishing. Oh a drop
of thy blood : that is a cor-
dial indeed, the soveraign
Balm of *Gilead*. These ma-
ny years , yea all my life
have I been diseased with
the bloody issue of sin ; and
all others are Physitians of
no value ; but if I may but
touch the hem of thy righ-
teous Garment, I shall be
whole, *Matth. 9.20,21,22*.
I come to thee with mine
Ulcers and Imposthumes,
to be lanced ; that the rot-
ten members of my body
of sin may be cut off.

6. Come weary and hea-
vy

close with Christ. 23

vy laden with your sins,
to Christ for rest and ease,
Mat. 11, 28, 29. Good *Paul*
groaning under the weight
of sin, makes many heavy
heart-burning complaints,
Rom. 7. 18, 19, and 24 but
yet in the 25. v. he triumphs
in Christ. Holy *David*,
restless and disquiet, roars
under sin, *Psal.* 38. 1. to 9.
Those sins that were **l**as
jewels in your eye, yea, as
your right hand or eye, are
they now as milstones and
loads to your soul ?

7. Come as a poor, nee-
dy, and naked creature to
Christ, as the poor to the

B 3 rich

24 *Directions how to*

rich mans door for alms.
Come quite stript naked of
your own righteousness,
Rev. 3. 17, 18. Cry out of
your spiritual poverty:
Lord, not one penny of
grace to help my self. Ne-
ver a poorer wretch came
to thee for mercy. Grace
I want; if I perish it shall
be at thy feet, begging and
praying. I will not be thrust
away from thy door. Be-
hold want of Faith, Pati-
ence, Love, &c. Not able
to think or speak, to do, or
suffer. Oh let the sweet
gales of thy spirit bring thy
rich promises fraught with
in-

incomparable grace and comfort, to unlade their heavenly treasure into my bosome. Give me the key of Faith, that I may unlock thy rich Store-house, and fetch what I want.

8. Come as an hunger-starv'd soul for bread of life, thirsting and panting for soul-refreshing grace, *Isa. 55.* Beg, cry out; Bread, Bread. In some Countries through great want, they cry, Give, and cut me, (holding out their arm) give and kill me. Cry, Give, Lord, and strike me, Give me heavenly food, and do what

26 *Directions how to*

thou wilt with me. Say,
Lord, if but as a Dog, I
may receive crumbs that fall
from thy full Table of
Grace. Thirst and behold
in every bleeding deep
wound of Christ a foun-
tain of rich flowing mercy.
Each heavenly promise
steep in that sweet blood of
Christ by faith, can afford
a full satisfying meal of joy
and comfort to thy pining
hunger-bitten Soul. Apply
the lips of thy faith to those
full breasts, to those over, e-
ver-flowing Wells of salva-
tion. Say, Lord, open those
precious boxes of ointment,
and

and sprinkle them on my dead, barren, parched thirsty heart. May I have but bread, but a drop, 'twill be as a refreshing cordial; how sweet then will a feast of fat things be, Wine on the Lees !

9. Come as a foolish ignorant and backward Scholar to Christ as to a great Prophet or Schoolmaster. Say, Lord, its thou must teach me, or I shall never learn : I am dull to understand, but thou canst and dost teach thy people to profit : Lord, that I may receive my spiritual eye-
B. 5. sight.

28 *Directions how to*

Thou hast many an heavenly lesson to teach, as Faith, Patience, Self-denial, &c. I am come to be thy Disciple, I have a long time been under the teachings of man, let me have the teachings of thy Spirit. Thou art meek, and not harsh, *Mat. II. 29.*

10. Come as an unskilful, trembling Souldier, as a weak *David*, struggling with Bears, Lyons, and *Goliaths*, with Principalities and Powers. Come to Christ as to the Captain of your Salvation; say, Lord, it's thou must teach
my

my hands to war, and my fingers to fight. It's thou must fight my battels for me, or I shall fall by the hands of these strong and towring lusts. What batteries, assaults, and storms doth Satan raise against my soul! *Heb. 2. 10. Eph. 6. 12.*

11. Come as a condemned Malefactor and lost prisoner to Christ, as to your Advocate and Intercessor. Lay open your bad cause and sad estate.

1. Your crimes are great and fearful, horrid treason, and that against the highest Majesty.

2. Your

30 *Directions how to*

2 Your accusers and adversaries many, subtil, diligent and cruel. The Devil, your own heart, and acquaintance can bring in black bills against you.

3. The Law of God condemns you; and your doom is dreadful.

4 The great God your Judge, is highly incensed, affronted and dishonoured.

Now apply your self to Jesus Christ, who has undertook as bad causes; say, Lord, stand between the flaming fire and revenging sword of Gods wrath and my poor soul, *1 Tim. 2. 5.*

1 Ioh. 2, 1.

12.

12. Come as a willing
servant to a good Master,
as a loyal Subject to your
only Lord and Sovereign,
to obey, honour and love
him above all others, and
that to the death. Say,
Here I am, what wilt thou
have me to do? Here is
my head to know thee, my
heart to love thee, my
tongue to praise thee, mine
ears to hear thy voyce, and
mine hands and feet to do
thy will. Other Lords be-
sides thee have ruled over
me. But thou art mine on-
ly Saviour and Prince, *Acts*
5, 30, 31. *Heb.* 5. 9. I dis-
like

32 *Directions how to*

like none of thy commands, they are righteous, good and reasonable; but I find fault with mine own wretched heart, that I can no more heartily love, and readily obey them. Say, Thy work is as *Adam's* was in Paradise, a pleasure and not a toyl; as the Bee labouring, sucks honey and sweetness, 1 *Joh. 5. 3.* What sweet, soul-ravishing work will my heart make of praying, hearing, and meditating, &c. when thou streamest forth thy graces, those blessed silver drops of heaven into every vein of my soul.

13. Come as a poor
worthless Spouse to Christ,
as to an honourable and
glorious husband. Come
both for thy wedding Gar-
ment and matchless porti-
on. Come as *Abigail* to *Da-
vid*, 1 *Sam.* 25. 40, 41 42.
say, Lord, here I am meanly,
yea vilely descended, by sin
a child of Satan, and thou
art the Lord from Heaven.
Enoble me with thy grace,
which is divine and heaven-
ly blood, far above the he-
roical blood of Ancestors.
Here I am ragged, decrepit
and deformed through sin.
Cover my filth and naked-
ness

34 *Directions how to*

ness with thy white, spotless garment, that my shame appear not. What is platting the hair, decking a filthy, slimy carcase, to the adorning the soul with invaluable grace! Every grace of thine is a rich Diamond, a Pearl, yea far above. The soul fill'd with God, is a little Heaven on Earth; and these graces are the bespangling stars and glittering lamps thereof. Read that notable Description, *Ezek. 16.3. to 14.*

These rich ornaments, this crown, not of gold but of grace and glory, none but

but Christs Bride wears.
Every morning set your
self solemnly, as in the pre-
sence of God Omniscent,
and charge your heart to
give in a true answer to
these enquiries, as it will
account for these and many
others things at the day of
Judgment before all the
World.

Serious Questions to put
to our souls every
Morning.

Qu. 1. **H**ow did I lye
down and rise
up? Was God in my thoughts?
And if so, were the thoughts
of him sweet and precious to
my soul? Psal. 139. 2, 3, 4.
Psal. 92. 1, 2.

2. In what frame is my
heart at present? Do I ad-
mire Gods goodness for the
last nights sleep, for adding
more time to my life: and
am I heartily thankful?
Prov. 3. 24.

3. Can

Quest. for Morning. 37

3. Can I really commit all mine affairs to God this day, to be guided by his counsel, protected and provided for by his care, and to be willing to be at his dispose? Mat. 6. 25. &c. 1 Pet. 5. 7. Psal. 37. 4.

4. Am I resolved to speak for God and his glory, whatever it cost me? In the strength of Christ will I not be terrified from, be ashamed of, or grow weary in well-doing? Mar. 8. 38.

5. Am I a child of God, an heir of Glory? or a slave to sin, and a child of Satan? If I am Gods child, must I
not

38 *Quest. for Morning.*

not wear the glorious garment of Righteousness, that royal sparkling livery of Heaven? If an heir of heaven, should I not cast off the rags of corruption, and take heed of defiling my self with the mire of sin? Deut. 5. 32. Jude 23. What should I do more then others? Mat. 5. 47.

6. Who is the greatest deceiver? if my heart, let me not trust, but watch over it all this day! Wherein are the greatest dangers, the most horrid and woful mistakes? if about mens sou's, let me venture the loss of all rather

Quest. for Morning. 39

her then of my precious never dying soul, Jer. 17. 9, 10.

7. What are mine implacable, potent, and soul-ruining enemies, but the flesh, the Devil, and the World? Let me not pamper the one, hearken to the second, nor idolize the third; Let me beware of them, watch and be sober, Rom. 8. 8. &c. Gal. 5. 17, 19. 1 Pet. 5. 8. Jam. 4. 4. 1 Joh. 2. 15.

8. Who is and can be my best friend, but God? Let me take care in all things to please him, fear provoking him. Let me love him with
all

40 *Quest. for Morning.*

all my heart, obey him with
all my might, and honour him
throughout all the day. Psal.
144. 15.

9. *Wherein is the greatest
vanity and vexation, but in
the world? Let me then
slight and not admire and
adore it. What is the sure
gain and most lasting good?
Certainly Godliness; let me
then prize, press after, and
live in it, Eccles. 1. 2. 1 Tim.
4. 8. Ch. 6. 6, 7.*

10. *What is my heavenly
work, but to run a race, fight
a good fight, strive and wre-
stle? Can this be without
care, diligence and watchful-
ness?*

Quest. for Morning. 41

ness? 1 Cor. 9. 24. Oh that
a vein of Religion might run
thorow all I do this day!

11. Whose eyes will be
upon me all this day, to ob-
serve head and heart, lip and
life? Will not God's, the
Judge of all the earth? and
dare I sin in his presence?
dare I so highly affront him
to his face? Heb. 4. 13.
Gen. 39. 9.

12. If I should spend this
day in vanity, sin and idle-
ness, will it not be bitterness
and sorrow at night? If I
spend it holily and profitably,
shall I not pray with more
confidence, and lie down
with

42 *Quest. for Morning.*

with the more peace? Will not the testimony of a good conscience be ground of great rejoycing? Psal. 4. 7, 8. 2 Cor. 1. 12.

13 *How would I have this day represented at the great day of Judgment? What words, thoughts, and actions, would I have then brought forth? Let mine be such; for certainly all must then be laid open, 2 Tim. 6. 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, Eccles. 11. 8.*

14 *How may I this day order my secular business with most wisdom and honesty, and for my greater advancement*

Quest. for Morning. 43.

vantage? Psal. 112. 5.

*15 Am I fit now to pour
out my soul to God in Prayer?
Can I first and chiefest seek
the Kingdom of God? Mat.
6. 33. Psal. 5. 2, 3.*

Separate your self every
Evening from all company,
and ask your heart these
Questions; And wherein
you have been guilty, be
heartily sorrowful, and beg
pardon: and wherein God
has enabled you to be in a-
ny measure faithful, bless
God and be thankful.

C Every

*Every Evening ask these
Questions.*

1 **W**Hat have I done
this day for God
and his Glory? what can I
now look back upon with
comfort? *Micah. 6.8.*

2 In what frame hath
mine heart been all this
day? what have I desired
most, Heavenly or Earth-
ly things? Hath my joy
been more in God and in
hope of glory, then in ri-
ches, honours, &c? Was
my grief most for sin, or
for troubles? What have

Quest. for Evening. 45

I most suckt comfort from
and lived upon, Creatures
the Cistern, or God the
Fountain? *Fer.* 2. 12, 13.
Hab. 3. 17, 18.

3 What were mine aims
and ends, in what I went
about? Have I been sincere,
and exercised a good con-
science towards God and
Men? Did I eat and drink,
pray and discourse with an
eye to Gods glory? or ra-
ther did *self* sit uppermost
in all? *1 Cor.* 10. 31. *1 Pet.*
4. 11.

4 What spiritual duties
have I performed this day?
Did I regard the manner

46 *Quest. for Evening.*

as well as the matter; out of conscience did I do them, and not out of custom? Did I pray fervently, read with care and observation, meditate so seriously as thoroughly to affect the heart? *Rom. 12. 11. 1am. 5. 16.*

5 How faithful, diligent and careful have I been in my Place and Calling? Have there been no idle hours in the day? *Rom. 12. 11. 1 Tim. 5. 13. Prov. 10. 4. 1 Theſſ. 4. 11.*

6 What have been my company this day? What good have I done to them, or received from them? Did

Quest. for Evening. 47

I reprove, exhort, strengthen, encourage, comfort, or warn, as occasion was given, and need required? *Col. 4. 6. Heb. 10. 24, 25.*

7 How have I born the troubles and crostes of the day? Did I not murmur, vex, nor sink? Did I not entertain hard thoughts of, nor utter rash words against God? *Phil. 4. 11, 12.*

8 What were my temptations this day, and what my sins? Was I not easily drawn into sin? Little over-aw'd or restrained by Gods All-seeing eye, merciful heart, or revenging
C 3 hand?

48 *Quest. for Evening.*

hand? Was I not soon
proud, angry? &c. Did I
not long continue in it, and
have I yet thorowly repen-
ted of it? What convicti-
on or mercy, or warning
did I sin against? *Isa. 59.*
12, 13. Jer. 8. 6.

9 What were my mer-
cies this day, and how was
my heart under them? Was
I affected with Gods good-
ness, and unfeignedly
thankful, and therefore
cheerfully fruitful in good
works? Have I priz'd my
health, friends, and estate?
&c. *Eph. 5. 20.*

10 What have I learnt
this

Quest. for Evening. 49

on this day? What more
I heart-affecting knowledge
nd have I got of God and his
n- glory, of my self and my
i- sins: of this world and
g that to come? *Phil. 1. 9.*

2 *Pet. 3. 18. Col. 1. 9, 10.*

11 What of Gods word
- have I remembered or read,
s repeated or heard this day?
s Was any Scripture sweet
- and good to my soul?
y What promise did I by
e Faith make mine own?
l What particular command
did in any thing sway and
rule me? 2 *Tim. 3. 15, 16,*
17.

12 What graces have I

C 4 espe-

50 *Quest. for Evening.*

especially exercised? Have
I lived by Faith, loved God
with all my heart and soul?
Denied my self in any thing
dear to me for God? *2 Pet.*
1. 6.

13 Have I this day li-
ved upon, lov'd, honour'd,
and reverenc'd God the
Father, as my Sun, Shield,
and Portion? Have I this
day priz'd, own'd, and made
use of Christ as my Savi-
our, Intercessour, and
Friend; As my Roor,
Head, and Husband? Hath
the Holy Ghost been to me
a Director, or Comforter,
a Quickner, or Confirmer?
Have

Quest. for Evening. 51

Have I cherisht and not
quencht its motions? *Psal.*
84. 11.

14 Have I been affected
with the evils of sin or mi-
sery of others, of Nation,
Parish and Family, of
Friends or Foes? Have I
had a pitiful heart, or boun-
tiful hand to any in want?
Psal. 119. 136. *Fam.* 2. 15,
16.

15 Have I shewn more
especial love and pity to
those that are of the hous-
hold of Faith? how have
I honour'd those that fear
the Lord? *Psal.* 15. 4. *Psal.*
16. 3. Hath a godly *Job* or

52 *Quest. for Evening.*

Lazarus, though in rags and sores, been unto me as an Orient Pearl on a Dung-hill? Have I not valued men more according to greatness, then goodness? *Gal. 6. 10.*

16 Did the Church of God and interest of Christ lie near my heart this day? have I heartily prayed for the welfare of *Sion*? and mourned when its songs are turned into lamentations, and its glory into desolation? Do I prefer *Jerusalem* above my chief joy? *Jer. 19. 1.*

17 Can my Family witness

Quest. for Evening. 53

ness that I have done any good for or to them? Can those that best know me, speak best for me? Have I been good as Husband or Wife? *Psal. 101. 2. &c.* as Parent or Child, as Master or Servant? *Ephes. 6. 1. &c.*

18 Have I wrong'd no man in his estate, by over-reaching him; in his name, by slandering, or back-biting? *1 Thess. 4. 6.* in his soul or body, by letting him fall into, or live in any sin or trouble? have I done to others, as I would they should do to me? *Mat. 7. 12.*

19. Have

54 *Quest. for Evening.*

19 Have I forgiven mine enemies, rejoyc'd at others mercies, and not envied any ones honour, riches, or friends, and coveted them? *Luke 6. 27. to 35. Matth. 6. 12, 14, 15.*

20 Am I of a quiet, peaceable spirit? Have I not quarrel'd and contend- ed with my neighbours? Or do I make up breaches and follow peace with all men? Do I honour the King, and obey Governors for Conscience sake? *Rom. 12. 18. Rom. 13. 1, &c.*

21 Hath my cloathing been suitable to my place
and

Quest. for Evening. 55

and station? Hath my carriage been sober, discreet, and serious? Have I not been vain, wanton, nor frothy in my discourse or spirit? *1 Pet. 3. 3, 4. 2 Tit. 1, & 6.*

22 Have I scorn'd and contemn'd the glory of the world, accounting it but dirt for Grace, and dross for Christ? *1 Joh. 5. 4, 5.*

23 Have I really set death before me? My life as a vapour, a shadow? if I should die dayly, what preparation have I made for it? Am I sure, but this is my last night? If God should:

56 *Quest. for Evening.*

should shut mine eyes by death, how is it like to be with my soul? Dare I lie down with the guilt or filth of any one sin? Is there any returning from the Grave to amend? No certainly, 2 *Cor.* 4. 14, 16. 1 *Cor.* 15. 54, &c. *Prov.* 27. 1.

24 Can I tell how great the day of Judgment will be? how glorious and terrible? And dare I meet Christ coming in flaming fire, with ten thousand of my sins to take vengeance? Can I hold up my head? Are my graces sound, and
of

Quest. for Evening. 57

of the right kind? All is not gold that glisters. Have I this day searcht, judg'd, and condemn'd my self? *1 Cor. II. 31. 2 Cor. 5. 10, 11. 2 Thess. 1. 8. 9, 10.*

25 Do I believe Hell torments dreadful and eternal? Its flames unspeakably scorching? Its misery endless and easeless? And do I not fly from this wrath to come? *Rev. 14. 10, 11.*

26. Have I ascended in the triumphant Chariot of Faith this day, and beheld the new *Jerusalem*, Gods glorious Palace? Did I live, love, think and talk as an
Heir

58 *Quest. for Evening.*

Heir of this kingdom? *Eph.*
1. 18, 19.

27 Have I not in all I
have done, minded man
more then God? Have I
not minded only the clear-
fing the outside? *Eph.* 6.
5, 6.

28 Dare I lie down this
night without praying ear-
nestly to God for the par-
don of my sins, the blessings
of the night, and the salva-
tion of my soul?

Dir-

*Directions for the strict Ob-
servation of the Lords
Day.*

For Preparation.

1 **O**Rder all your week
business so wisely
before hand, that you may
have no unnecessary work
on Gods day ; that your
hands may be as free as
possible from worldly work,
and your heads from world-
ly cares and thoughts. *Exod.*
20.8,9,10,11.

2 Think seriously, What
a weighty work am I going
about ! My week-affairs
are

60 *Strict observations*

are but Toys and Trifles to this. What are Sheep, Oxen, or Shops, to Grace, Christ, or Heaven? Can I be too careful and serious in Gods Work, in Soul-salvation work? Surely no. How holy should my thoughts be, how heavenly my discourse, how earnest mine endeavours all the day long? *Isa. 58. 13, 14.*

3 Therefore prepare with all your might, search your hearts and lives, *1 Chron. 29. 1, 2.* 1 Find out what your sins are, to confess, mourn over, and pray against, *Lam. 3. 20.* 2 What the

of the Lords Day. 61

the Mercies are you want
for soul or body, for your
Friends, Families, and Na-
tion ; account this a Mar-
ket day for your souls,
Rev. 3. 17, 18. 3 What
blessings received, and what
thanks to be returned. *Psal.*
116. 12.

4 Think with your self,
What good did I get by
former, yea, by the last
Sabbath? Was my heart
then broken, or warm'd
with love to God, and the
like? What did I then
learn, and how have I pra-
ctised it in the Week?
Have I fully digested by
medi-

62 *Strict observations*

meditation, firmly believed,
and faithfully obeyed the
truths were last taught me?

Isa. I. II. &c.

5 Beg earnestly of God,
that he would help you to
sanctifie a Sabbath, that
this may be the best Sab-
bath you ever kept. That
your heart may be more
tender, humble, and hea-
venly; that the out-goings
of your soul may be more
free, strong, and fixed, and
the incomes of Heavenly
grace and comfort more
abundant: that God may
reap more glory, and you
receive more good then
ever

of the Lords Day. 63

ever heretofore. That the holy keeping of this Sabbath, may be an earnest to you of keeping a never never-ending Sabbath with God in glory.

To this end pray especially for these four things.

1 That God may prepare a suitable word for your soul, that the Ministers mouth may be opened, and his heart enlarged, and his message full of goodness. That it may be the pure, plain, and powerful Word of God, *Ephes.* 6. 18, 19.

2 That

64 *Strict observations*

2 That God would fill his own Ordinances with his own presence and blessing : that he would touch your heart, when man speaks to the ear. Drop, yea, stream down heavenly grace through these Conduit Pipes, *Isa. 48. 17. Luke 16. 14.*

3 That you may have the hearing Ear, the seeing Eye, and the understanding Heart ; that you may be teachable, willing to learn, and apt to receive what God delivers, *Jam. 1. 21, 22. Psal. 110. 3.*

4 That

for the Lords Day. 65

4 That your souls enemies may be kept off, at least resisted and kept down. That your hearts may not deceive you, the Devil divert you, nor the World distract or disturb you.

Having thus in some measure prepared your hearts for the Solemn work of this great Day; observe and practice these following directions, as ever you hope to have the blessing of the Sabbath.

1 As

66 *Strict observations*

1 As soon as you awake fix your hearts and eyes heaven-ward ; bless God that you see the light of one day more, especially Gods day ; wherein you may labour to have your sins pardoned and purged, and your souls furnisht with grace, and so fitted for glory. Call the Sabbath your delight, *Psal.* 118. 23, 24. *Psal.* 59. 16.

2 Beg heartily of God, that he would strengthen you by his grace, to do what he requires, as he would have it done ; that he would pardon your unpreparation,
on,

for the Lords Day. 67

on, bear with your infirmities, accept of your poor services, and Crown all with his blessing, *2 Chron. 30. 18, 19, 20.*

3 That you be fitted for the holy and heavenly work of the day; affect your heart with some or all of these Ten following things:

1 With the Majesty of that God whom you are to wait upon, *Psal. 95. 2, 3, &c.*

2 With the vileness of sin, and of your selves because of sin.

3 With the sweetness
D of

66 *Strict observations*

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for the Lords Day. 67

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2 With the vileness of sin, and of your selves because of sin.

3 With the sweetness
D of

68 *Strict observations*

of Christ, and the greatness of his Love and Mercie.

4 With the excellency of that heavenly work you are going about, and the gain of godliness.

5 With the vanity of the world, and all things therein.

6 With the worth, and high value of your immortal souls.

7 With the rage, subtilty, and diligence of your souls enemies.

8 Especially with the deceitfulness of your own hearts.

9 With

for the Lords Day. 69

9 With the **Terrour** and
Torment of **Hell**.

10 With the unspeakable
and everlasting glory of
Heaven.

4 Carefully, and consci-
entiously perform **Fa-**
mily Duties, *Josh. 24.*
15.

1 See that your **Servants**
and **Children** of age, waste
not away the **Morning** in
sleep or idleness.

2 Cause them to joyn
together in **Prayer**, **Read-**
ing, or any other **Godly Ex-**
ercise, *Gen. 18. 19.*

D 2

3 If

70 *Strict observations*

3 If you have time, you may Catechise them, or discourse to them of any of those former Ten things, *Deut. 6.6,7.*

1 Inform your selves and them, what a great and glorious Majesty and Master you are to serve, *Mal. 1.14.*

2 What a blessed and heavenly work you go about; that it's heart work, *Joh. 4. 24.* and therefore hard and difficult work, and yet that its pleasant and excellent, *Prov. 3.17. Chap.8.34,35.* Oh the

for the Lords Day. 71

the fatness of Gods house,
and the beauties of holiness!

3 What an abundant
and unspeakable reward attends the well-doing, even life everlasting, *Rom 6.22.* and how fearful a thing it is to trifle and be careless in it, *Lev. 10. 3. Mal. 1. 8, 13, 14. Heb. 12. 28, 29. Acts 20. 9.*

4 Exhort and command them to be at all good exercises; yea, watch over, and look after them. Remember the fourth Commandment binds you to look to all within your

D 3 care

72 *Strict observations*

care and power, Man-servant, Maid-servant, &c. If God had no more pity and mercy to the souls of children and servants, then many bloody Parents and Masters, they must needs swim in the direful Gulph of their sins, into utter destruction.

5 Repair to the publick places of Worship: If you have no Minister in your own Parish, go where is the most soul-searching, heart-melting, and sinner-rowling Preaching, &c. *Isa.* 2. 3.

Take

for the Lords Day. 73

Take these Rules with
you.

I Thoroughly weigh these
four things :

I Consider I am this
day to wait on God , the
King of Glory, and not on
man ; and therefore am I
to come with all fear and
care ; what an infinite
greatness am I to admire
and reverence ? What
rich goodness am I to love
and delight in ? what
depths of wisdom to look
D 4 into ?

74 *Strict observations*

into ? what infallible truth
to rest upon and believe ?
what a wrath and fiery in-
dignation to tremble at ?
God is glorious in holiness,
and of pure eyes, *Isa* 6. 1,
2, 3.

2 What a poor worth-
less worm and wretch am
I ? How should I come
crawling, crouching, and
trembling to the Throne of
Grace ? What am I but
dust and ashes, but putre-
faction, yea, a sink of
sin ? *Isa*. 6. 5. *Job* 42.
5, 6.

3 I have not onely an
empty

for the Lords Day. 75

empty heart, void of all good, but an envious heart, full of all mischief and perversness, *Rom. 8. 7, 8.*

4 Yet what preparation have I made? Have I not spent more time and care to dress my body for the eye of man, then to deck my soul for the eye of God? *Job 11. 13, 14, 15. Psal. 10. 17.*

2 As you are going to Gods house,

1 If you are alone, fill

D 5 your

76 *Strict observations*

your heart with heavenly Meditations, hunger and thirst after the Word, *1 Pet. 2. 2. Mat. 5. 6.* Think, if God should meet my soul and bless it: Oh that he would!

2 If you are in company, talk of God and his Word, but without pride or affectation. Or hear others heavenly discourse: but if they are such as favour only of Earth, and scorn Godliness, either reprove or leave them, *2 Cor. 6. 17.*

for the Lords Day. 77

3 As you enter Gods
presence, really expect his
goodness to pass before
you. See *Exod.* 33. 18.
to the end, Chap. 34. 67.
Earnestly look for the light
of his Countenance, *Psal.*
4. 6. Say, Lord, thou hast
promised to be in the midst
of thy people, *Psal.* 133. 3.
Matth. 18. 20. Bow the
Heavens and come down :
Let thy greatness awe us,
and thy goodness refresh
us. By Faith, behold God
in the highest Heavens,
surrounded with glorious
Saints and Angels, and
take.

78 *Strict observations*

take heed to thy self, *Eccles.* 5. 1, 2. and yet through Christ, come with boldness, and cry Abba Father, *Heb.* 4. 15, 16. Chapter 10. 19, 20, 21, 22.

4 Make a Covenant with your eyes, that they gaze not about to see, who is in the Congregation, and what Clothes they wear and the like; Take heed of a wandering departing heart, *Matth.* 15. 8, 9. Fix your Eyes on the Minister, your Ears on the Word,

for the Lords Day. 79
Word, and your heart on
God, *Psal.* 123. 1, 2.

5 Be reverend in the
gesture of your bodies,
bow your knees as well as
your hearts before the
Lord; if the place be not
convenient for kneeling,
stand upright, *1 Cor.* 14. 40.

6 Whatever Spiritual
work you set about, do it
with all your might and
soul, *Eccles.* 9. 10. *Rom.*
12. 11. As,

1 In Prayer; while the
Minister

80 *Strict observations*

Minister is confessing and bewailing sin, let your heart even melt, bleed and break, *Joel* 2. 13. When he begs Mercy, let your souls breath and pant after it, *Psal.* 42. 1, 2. When he returns thanks and praise, let all that is within you bless Gods holy Name, *Psal.* 103. 1, 2.

2 If Singing, let your hearts make melody to the Lord; Take heed when your voice is high, your heart be not dead, flat and low, *Col.* 3. 16. *Ephes.* 5. 19.

3. When

for the Lords Day. 81

3 When the Word is
read or preacht, mind, This
is the Word of God, 1 *Thes.*
2. 13.

1 It is his Command,
and dare I disobey it? Oh
that my ways were direct-
ed! *Psal.* 119. 4, 5.

2 Doth God threaten
these Judgments, and de-
nounce these curses on sin-
ners? And must I not trem-
ble?

3 Are these his calls and
invitations? his rich pro-
mises and great love? and
shall I refuse all? Doth
God

82 *Strict observations*

God knock at the door of my heart? Let the everlasting doors thereof fly open, that the King of Glory may come in.

4 While the Minister is pronouncing the Blessing, post not away, (a fault too common every where) but hope, desire, and believe it shall come down upon you, *Psal. 133. 3. Prov. 8. 33, 34, 35.*

5 Take heed afterward that Satan may not steal away the good seed sown; that the thorny cares of the world may not choak it,
Mark.

for the Lords Day. 83

Mark 4. 14. to 20. Let not the World get into your mouths, as soon as the Word is out of the Ministers. Some have been sick when they hear a row-sing Sermon, when the Word flashes Hell-fire in their faces, a little startled; but it's as men are Sea sick, vomit up the Word, and come ashore to the World, and all is well again.

6 As soon as you come home, beg of God to bless the Word you have heard, that it may not be as water spilt on the ground.

84 *Strict observations*

ground, but that your memories may retain it, your hearts love, and your wills obey it, *1 Cor. 3. 6.* That it may tear, rent and fetch blood from your lusts, that it may fire your hearts with love to, and zeal for God; and that love may fill your mouths with good words, and your hands with good works, *Rom. 2. 13.*

7 When you sit down to dinner, having begged Gods blessing on the food of Soul and Body, *Matth. 14. 19.*

1 Eat

for the Lords Day. 85

1 Eat no more then will fit and enable you comfortably and lively to serve God, *Luke 21. 34.* Many fill their bellies so at this time, that they are fit only to lay their drowsie heads on the Devils pillow of sloth.

2 Talk of Gods Word sitting down and rising up. Let your hearts be heavenly, and your discourse favoury, seasoned with Grace. A Table without some good discourse, differs little from a manger, *Isa. 5. 12.*

8 Af-

86 *Strict observations*

8 After Dinner , either repeat the Word heard , or read in the Bible , or in some other good book ; and call your own heart , and your family to an account for what you have heard , *Deut.6.7,8,9.*

9 In the time appointed , go with your Family to the publick , as in the Morning. Think not half a day enough for God and your souls.

1 If you come to the Congregation before the Minister , spend not away the
the

for the Lords Day. 87

the time in idle imaginations or worldly discourse, or any vain stories ; but either meditate on God or his Word, or talk heavenly and holily. It's sad to see a Church-yard filled with idle persons ; to hear nothing but of this or that person and family. The great Questions are , how Corn was sold the last Market day, and what Corn in such a field ? and the like. Poor barren empty souls ! have you no better things to employ your heads and tongues about ? Rather ask,
What

88 *Strict observations*

What a good Word we heard this day? How are we now to provide for Heaven? The Devil is so busie in the Church-yard sowing his seed, that Gods seed takes little place and rooting in the Church. Can you do the Devils work now, and the next hour Gods? I am perswaded, the seasoning of persons hearts with vanity and frothy discourse before Sermon, hath been a very great hindrance to the efficacy of the Word, and the good of many poor souls.

2 Warm

for the Lords Day. 89

2 Warm your hearts with love to God, and delight in the work ; think not that falling down on your knees at your entrance, and tumbling over a few words, is a sufficient preparation. It's an harder work then most imagine , to fit the soul for God.

3 When you are waiting on God , take heed of drowsiness, deadness, or distraction. Remember, a careless heart, a drowsie body , dull affections and dead services are not fit for a living God. Think, Do
I

90 *Strict observations*

I pray now as for Heaven?
hear as one hearing God
speaking from Heaven?
Is my heart such as God
may love and delight in?

It's to be fear'd, many
can tell, where the win-
dows and seats are broken,
what spots on the walls,
and the like, better then
what the Text, Doctrines,
or Heads of the Sermon
were.

4 Take heed how you
spend the Evening. The
heart is very apt to be vain
after serious Duties. If
God hath set home any sin,
shewn

shewn you any duty, run
that over and over in your
retired thoughts, *Psal.*

1. 2.

10 When you are about
your necessary worldly
work, as serving your cat-
tel, and the like; Take
heed of carrying a worldly
heart into the field. Turn
all things you see or hear
heavenly. If your cattel
stray, think, How apt am I
to go out of Gods way! If
you behold the Heavens,
see therein Gods power and
wisdom, &c. *Psal.* 19. 1.

E

Think

91 *Strict observations*

Think or talk of the Word,
Psal. 19.7. to 11.

11 Look on all you have done, as far short of what God deserves and requires. What heavenly, fervent, zealous prayers doth such a God deserve, and such rich mercy call for? God is worthy of a better tongue than mine to praise him, and a better heart to love him. Could I have done all commanded, and never so well, I were but an unprofitable servant, *Luke* 17. 10. What am I then, when I come so infinitely far short;

short ; when every duty is filled up with abundance of sin and fearful failings !

12 Rest on nothing you have done for acceptance or salvation , but on Christ alone. Disown all confidence in your own righteousness, and expect all the blessings and promises streaming to you alone in the blood of Christ, *Phil.* 3. 8,9.

13 Before you lie down at night, look over the days work. Search back into every hour and duty of the day. Humble your self,

E 2 and

94 *Strict observations, &c.*

and be heartily sorrowful for any miscarriages; bless God, and be unfeignedly thankful, if you have received any good; and still look out for more. Take the shame of failings to your self, and give God the glory of any enlargements, *1 Chron. 29, 10, 11, &c.*

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